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Record quarter in Tasmanian woodchip production - ABS

Tasmanian woodchip production increased to a record level in the September quarter of this year, according to a report released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics today. Chipped and ground wood production totalled 1,225,381 tonnes for the quarter, up by 24.8% on the same quarter of 1998. This is the highest recorded production level since data was first collected in 1970.

According to the ABS report the volume of logs delivered to mills for woodchipping in the 1999 September quarter was 1,056,758 cubic metres, 21.1% more than in the September quarter 1998. Log deliveries to sawmills and plywood mills for the September quarter 1999 totalled 251,957 cubic metres, an increase of 13.2% when compared to the September quarter 1998 figure.

The overall sawmilling output of timber in the September quarter 1999 was 96,771 cubic metres, 11.5% higher than output for the same quarter last year. Hardwood sawn timber production increased to 47,541 cubic metres, 5.0% higher than the figure recorded in the 1998 September quarter. Softwood timber production (49,230 cubic metres) also rose 18.6% on the same period last year.

The total volume of logs delivered to Tasmanian sawmills and woodchip mills in the 1999 September quarter was 1,308,715 cubic metres, an increase of 19.5% compared to the figure for 1998 September quarter. Of this total 59.3% were logs from crown land.

Further details can be found in **Tasmanian Statistical Indicators** (cat. no. 1303.6), available from ABS bookshops. This publication also contains information addressing areas such as population and vital statistics, employment and unemployment, wages and prices, production statistics, building, finance, trade, retail sales, tourism and motor vehicle registrations.

If you wish to purchase a copy of this publication telephone 02 6252 5249.

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